

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01458 151937Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9744

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 1458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, HO

SUBJECT: WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON UNITED BRANDS

REF: STATE 080701 AND 082175

1. FOR THE FULLER INFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SUCH ACTION AS IT MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE, STEPHEN SANSWEET, ONE OF THE THREE AUTHORS OF THE ORIGINAL JOURNAL ARTICLE AND WHO IS CURRENTLY IN HONDURAS, WHEN QUESTIONED REGARDING PARAGRAPH WHICH QUOTED "TOP LEVEL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT" AS SAYING ORIGINAL TIP-OFF ON ALLEGED BRIBE CAME FROM EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA, INSISTED ON ITS VERACITY. HE SAID THIS PART OF ARTICLE, LIKE EVERY OTHER, WAS CHECKED OUT TWICE BEFORE PUBLICATION. HE SAID OFFICER, WHEN SUBSEQUENTLY CONFRONTED WITH OFFICIAL DENIALS OF DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY, ADMITTED HE WAS IN ERROR AND EXPLAINED HE "HAD JUST ASSUMED" THIS WAS THE CASE.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE THE OFFICIAL DENIALS, THE ORIGINAL STORY APPEARS TO BE WIDELY BELIEVED HERE, PARTICULARLY SINCE NO OTHER PART OF THE STORY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY QUESTIONED. SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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